

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-08 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

/090 W

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R 161531Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4153

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EAGR, ECEM, NL

SUBJECT: MERCURY IN ANIMAL FEED

REF: HAGUE 3996

1. IN LATEST CONVERSATIONS OF AMBASSADOR GOULD WITH GRAPPERHAUS AND TROUW DIRECTOR BARETTA, FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EMERGED BEARING ON TROUW CLAIM AGAINST CPC AND INSURANCE COMPANIES:

(A) CONTAMINATED STARCH DELIVERED BY CPC BRITAIN TOTALLED 60 TONS, OF WHICH 48 TONS WAS INCORPORATED INTO 800 TONS OF FEED MIX AND PLACED ON MARKET BEFORE CONTAMINATION WAS UNCOVERED BY CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS ON OR ABOUT JULY 1.

(B) ABOUT 1,000 CALVES HAVE DIED OR BEEN DESTROYED IN THE NETHERLANDS AND ADDITIONAL DEATHS ARE ANTICIPATED. OF 30,000 CALVES EXPOSED TO THE CONTAMINATED FEED, THEREFORE, SOME 29,000 REMAIN ALIVE. EXPORT OF THESE ANIMALS OR VEAL FROM THEM HAS BEEN PROHIBITED BY GON. IF DUTCH VETERINARY SERVICE FINDS THEM CHEMICALLY SOUND WHEN REACHING SLAUGHTER WEIGHT, MEAT WILL BE SPOT CHECKED AGAINST TOLERANCE

OF 0.05 PPM OF MERCURY AND ALL LIVERS AND KIDNEYS DESTROYED. HOME  
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INSURANCE HAS NOT YET AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE.

(C) HOME INSURANCE HAS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN POSITION THAT ONCE CLAIMS INITIALLY PRESENTED ARE ADJUDICATED THEY WILL BE PAID ONLY IN RETURN FOR WAIVER OF FUTURE CLAIMS (GRAPPERHAUS DESCRIBES THIS AS "BLACKMAIL" TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TROUW'S LIMITED CASH AVAILABILITY).

(D) EXPORT OF OTHER DUTCH CALVES WILL NOW BE PERMITTED TO ALL DESTINATIONS. ITALY HAS PERMITTED IMPORTATION OF OTHER DUTCH BRANDS OF MILK REPLACER AND WILL PERMIT IMPORTS OF TROUW PRODUCT WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE DUTCH VETERINARY CERTIFICATE.

(E) ITALIAN VETERINARY SERVICE CHIEF BELLANI HAS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN POSITION THAT VEAL FROM CALVES INFECTED IN ITALY MAY NOT BE MARKETED IF MERCURY CONTENT EXCEEDS 0.007 RPT 0.007 PPM DESPITE FACT THAT WHO APPROVED TOLERANCE IS 0.05 RPT 0.05 PPM.

(F) TROUW HAS REPORTEDLY OBTAINED DUTCH COURT ORDER TO FREEZE 30 MILLION GUILDERS IN CPC CASH AND OTHER ASSETS IN UTRECHT.

(G) LOCAL PRESS IS ALLEGEDLY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF CPC DUTCH PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (E.G. KNORR SHOUS AND MAIZENA).

(H) TROUW FEARS ITALIAN CUSTOMERS MAY SELL CONTAMINATED VEAL ON BLACK MARKET IF ITALIAN AUTHORITIES DO NOT SOON TAKE ACTION TO EXPEDITE TESTS OF CALVES NOW BLOCKED.

(I) TROUW IS IN CONTACT WITH DUTCH ASST AG ATT TIMMERS (NOW IN THE HAGUE) AND WILL REQUEST FOREIGN OFFICE TO INSTRUCT DUTCH AMBASSADOR BOON TO URGE ITALIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING OF BLOCKED CALVES.

2. FOREGOING DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST NEED FOR CONTINUED ACTION BY U.S. AND DUTCH EMBASSYS IN ROME TO PROMOTE EARLY DECISION FROM ITALIAN VETERINARY SERVICE ON MARKETABILITY OF INFECTED CALVES AND PROMPT AGREEMENT BY HOME INSURANCE TO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENT FOR TESTING OF CALVES IN HOLLAND. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOR BOTH ECONOMIC AND BIOLOGICAL REASONS SUSPECT CATTLE MUST BE SLAUGHTERED AS SOON AS THEY REACH MARKET WEIGHT. ANY DELAYS THEREAFTER IN DISPOSING OF MEAT WILL SIMPLY ADD TO CONTINGENT LIABILITY OF CPC AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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